

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

a reading means for reading an image in an original;

a character recognizing means for recognizing a character in the image read by said reading means;

a storing means for storing a character font;

a readout means for reading the character font from said storing means in response to a result of recognition obtained by said character recognizing means;

a detecting means for detecting information concerning the character in the image read by said reading means; and

a generating means for generating a reproduced image based on the character font read by said readout means and the information concerning the character detected by said detecting means,

wherein said generating means reproduces a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and

said generating means reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the set condition.

2. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a character font used for a reproduced image is determined to have a character style which is closest to the character in the original.

3. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a character used for a reproduced image has at least two different sizes with respect to the same character size on the original.

4. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein a character size used for a reproduced image is determined as a maximum size by which all characters in the original can be reproduced as reproduced images.

5. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said generating means reproduces a character having a size according to information detected by said detecting means and a set copy magnification.

6. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein said generating means reproduces a character with a character gap according to the set copy magnification.

7. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said generating means reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps when a number of pixels of a character gap calculated in accordance with the set copy magnification is not an integer.

8. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting information concerning a character in an image in an original;
recognizing a character in the image;
reading a character font from a storing means in response to a result of character recognition; and

generating a reproduced image based on the read character font and the information concerning the character,

wherein said generating step reproduces a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and

said generating step reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the set condition.

9. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

detecting information concerning a character in an image in an original;
recognizing a character in the image;
reading a character font from a storing means in response to a result of character recognition; and

generating a reproduced image based on the read character font and the information concerning the character,

wherein said generating step reproduces a character with a character gap according to a set condition by an instruction from an operator, and
said generating step reproduces characters by combining a plurality of kinds of character gaps in accordance with the set condition.

10. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:
a reading means for reading an image in an original;
a recognizing means for recognizing a character in the image read by said reading means at a first resolution; and
a generating means for ~~substituting~~ generating a font having a second resolution lower than said first resolution for the character recognized by said recognizing means, at a second resolution lower than the first resolution of the recognition performed by said recognizing means, reproduced data of a font based on a recognition result of said recognizing means.

11. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10,
wherein a size of said font generated by said generating means is substantially equal to a size of the character in the image in said original.

12. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10,
wherein said first resolution for an image area other than a character recognized by said recognizing means is converted into said second resolution.

13. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10 further comprising an outputting means for outputting a reproduced image generated by said generating means to an external apparatus.

14. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said generating means selects a different font in accordance with a value of said second resolution.

15. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein a font replaced by said generating means includes a rough character font.

16. (Original) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said generating means selects a different font in accordance with a size of the character in the image recognized by said recognizing means.

17. to 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

recognizing a character in an image in an original at a first resolution; and
~~substituting generating a font having a second resolution lower than said first resolution for the recognized character to generate a reproduced image, at a second~~

resolution lower than the first resolution of the recognition performed in said recognizing step, reproduced data of a font based on a recognition result of said recognizing step.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer characterized by storing a program therein, said program using the computer to execute the processing comprising the steps of:

recognizing a character in an image in an original at a first resolution; and
~~substituting generating a font having a second resolution lower than said~~
~~first resolution for the recognized character to generate a reproduced image, at a second~~
resolution lower than the first resolution of the recognition performed in said recognizing
step, reproduced data of a font based on a recognition result of said recognizing step.

25. (Canceled)

26. (New) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

27. (New) A method according to Claim 8, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can transmit data to

an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.

28. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can form on a sheet an image based on data input from at least any of a plurality of data generation sources including an original reading unit and an external apparatus.

29. (New) A method according to Claim 22, wherein said method enables to output the reproduced image in an image processing apparatus which can transmit data to an external apparatus through at least any of a plurality of data transmission media including a personal computer interface and a network.